

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P48448PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/NL 00/00037	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/01/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 19/01/1999	
Applicant WELL ENGINEERING PARTNERS B.V. et al.			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND METHOD

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT 00/00037

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 E21B19/16 E21B19/22 F16L13/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E21B F16L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 396 204 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 7 November 1990 (1990-11-07) claims 1,2,4 figure 1	1-4, 12, 13, 18-21
Y	---	5-9
Y	US 3 677 345 A (SIZER PHILLIP S) 18 July 1972 (1972-07-18) column 2, line 34-55	5-9
X	GB 1 405 359 A (INST ELEKTROSWARKI PATONA;NAUK UK SSSR) 10 September 1975 (1975-09-10) claim 1 figure 2	1-4, 12, 18-20

	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 April 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Schouten, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT 00/00037

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 013 880 A (PUETTMANN FRANZ-JOSEF) 7 May 1991 (1991-05-07) claim 1 ----	1, 18
A	US 3 667 554 A (SMITHERMAN EUGENE A) 6 June 1972 (1972-06-06) the whole document ----	1, 18
A	US 3 724 567 A (SMITHERMAN E) 3 April 1973 (1973-04-03) the whole document ----	1, 18
A	US 4 848 455 A (FENYVESI JANOS) 18 July 1989 (1989-07-18) the whole document -----	1, 18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PC 00/00037

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0396204 A	07-11-1990	AU 620711 B	20-02-1992
		AU 5460290 A	08-11-1990
		CA 2015844 A	03-11-1990
		DE 69002860 D	30-09-1993
		DE 69002860 T	23-12-1993
		JP 2304195 A	17-12-1990
		JP 2747084 B	06-05-1998
		NO 301032 B	01-09-1997
		US 5071053 A	10-12-1991
US 3677345 A	18-07-1972	NONE	
GB 1405359 A	10-09-1975	NONE	
US 5013880 A	07-05-1991	DE 3839633 C	05-04-1990
		EP 0370183 A	30-05-1990
		JP 2151369 A	11-06-1990
US 3667554 A	06-06-1972	US 3724567 A	03-04-1973
US 3724567 A	03-04-1973	US 3667554 A	06-06-1972
US 4848455 A	18-07-1989	SE 461050 B	18-12-1989
		GB 2212838 A	02-08-1989
		SE 8704678 A	26-05-1989